Taken Report laid in the Parliament on the JPC Report, RBI had taken action against foreign banks which included imposing of penalty, withdrawal of exemption given from maintenance of 10% incremental CRR, withholding of repatriation of profits, etc.

(c) and (d) Government have seen the newsitem referred to in the question. Claims have been filed by the banks against the Harshad Mehta Group before the Special Court which will decide them in accordance with the provisions of the Special Court (Trial of Offences Relating to Transactions in Securities) Act, 1992.

Strategy by PHDCCI to Avert Power Crisis

112. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has suggested a three-pronged strategy to avoid a serious power crisis by the turn of the century;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the strategy; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The strategy suggested by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry is as follows:-

(i) There should be a drastic restructuring of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

(ii) Ministry of Environment & Forests should be more responsive towards clearing power projects at a considerably faster speed.

(iii) Small specialist groups should be formed in the State Departments of Power under the Chief Minister for clearing power projects.

(c) and (d) The Government have been taking steps to streamline the clearance procedures even before and specifically taken the following steps in this regard:—

(i) The number of clearances required at the stage of techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) have been reduced.

(ii) Projects with an estimated capital cost of less than Rs. 400 crores, which have been allocated to the promoter on the basis of competitive bidding, are no longer required to obtain techno-economic clearance of CEA.

(iii) A two stage clearance by CEA viz, 'In principle' clearance to be provided initially, followed by the detailed techno-economic clearance. The 'In principle' clearance enables the promoter to tie up certain inputs/ clearances without having to wait for the techno-economic clearance.

On the suggestion for a specialist group at the State level, the state governments would have to take a view.

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act

113. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act provides the same penalty in case of hard and soft drugs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that by clubbing of both the types of drugs, the Act has as matter of fact promoted hard drugs;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the profit margin in the trade of hard drugs was 300% more than in soft drugs; and

(d) whether Government propose to modify the NDPS Act to check promotion of hard drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The NDPS Act provides for mild punishment in respect of contraventions relating to Ganja and cultivation of cannabis plant. In respect of the said contraventions, the punishment imposable is rigorous imprisonment which may extend upto 5 years and also fine which may extend upto 50 thousand rupees. In respect of trafficking of other drugs punishment imposable is a minimum of 10 years rigorous imprisonment which may extend upto 20 years and a minimum fine of Rs. 1 lakh. In respect of consumption and possession for personal consumption, the sentence imposable is as follows:—

(i) where the narcotic drug or psychotropic substance possessed or consumed is cocaine, morphine, diacetylmorphine or any other narcotic drug or any psychotropic substance as may be specified in this behalf by the Central Government, by notification in the official Gazette, with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine or with both; and

(ii) where the narcotic drug or psychotropic substance possessed or consumed is other than those specified in or under clause (i), with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with fine or with both;

It would be seen from the aforesaid that it is not correct to say that the NDPS Act provides the same penalty in respect of all the drugs.

(b) and (d) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

(c) Drug trafficking is a clandestine activity and therefore, it cannot be said definitely whether the profit margin in the trade of hard drugs was 300% more than in the soft drugs.

विद्युत की मांग और वास्तविक उत्पादन

114. **श्री रामजीलाल:** क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) 31 दिसम्बर, 1995 की स्थिति अनुसार देश में बिजली की कितनी मांग हो गयी है और इस समय इसका कितना उत्पादन हो रहा है;

(ख) बिजली की मांग और इसके वास्तविक उत्पादन के मध्य इस अंतर को दूर करने के लिए वर्ष 1995 में कौन-कौन से उपाय किए गए और कितने समझौता ज्ञापनों पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए;

(ग) अन्य परियोजनाओं के अलावा इन समझौता ज्ञापनों के परिणामस्वरूप अब तक कौन-कौन सी परियोजनाएं आरंभ की गयी हैं; और

(घ) क्या इस वर्ष के दौरान किसी ताप अथवा पन बिजली परियोजना के माध्यम से विद्युत उत्पादन का काम शुरू किया गया है; यदि हां, तो उसका राज्यवार ब्यौरा क्या है?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल): (क) अप्रैल-दिसंबर, 1995 की अवधि के दौरान देश में ऊर्जा आवश्यकता 288049 मि०यू० थी और इस अवधि के दौरान ऊर्जा उत्पादन 281597 मि०यू० था।

(ख) 18.2.1995 के पश्चात् विद्युत परियोजनाएं प्रतिस्पर्द्धात्मक बोली के आधार पर निजी पार्टियों को भी सौंपी जा रही हैं। निजी क्षेत्र में विद्युत परियोजनाओं की स्थापना के लिए प्राप्त 202 प्रकट रूचियों की विद्युत मंत्रालय निरंतर मानीटरिंग कर रहा है जिनमें 66 प्रस्ताव प्रतिस्पर्द्धात्मक बोली के माध्यम से प्राप्त हुए शामिल हैं।

(ग) निजी क्षेत्र में विद्युत परियोजनाओं को निजी कंपनियों द्वारा आवश्यक लिंकेज सुनिश्चित किए जाने, सांविधिक/गैर सांविधिक स्वीकृतियां प्राप्त करने और संबंधित राज्यों/रा०बि०बो० के साथ संतोषजनक करारों पर हस्ताक्षर किए जाने के पश्चात् क्रियान्वित किया जाएगा।

(घ) अप्रैल, 95 से जनवरी, 96 की अवधि के दौरान क्षमता अभिवृद्धि के ब्यौरे विवरण में दिए गए हैं।